

A&H CLUB

Rick
Griffin

#5



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2010

SHARING SPACE

by Rick Griffin



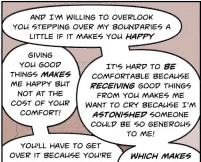








IF YOU'RE GONNA ASSUME I'M BEING DEFENSIVE, THEN I'LL JUST COME OUT AND ASK: DID YOU BUY ME HALF A CAR OUT OF PITY?



AND I'M WILLING TO OVERLOOK YOU STEPPING OVER MY BOUNDARIES A LITTLE IF IT MAKES YOU HAPPY

GIVING YOU GOOD THINGS **MAKES** ME HAPPY BUT NOT AT THE COST OF YOUR COMFORT!

IT'S HARD TO **BE** COMFORTABLE BECAUSE **RECEIVING** GOOD THINGS FROM YOU MAKES ME WANT TO CRY BECAUSE I'M **ASTONISHED** SOMEONE COULD BE SO GENEROUS TO ME!

YOU'LL HAVE TO GET OVER IT BECAUSE YOU'RE AN AMAZING PERSON WHO **DESERVES** GOOD THINGS!

WHICH MAKES YOU THE BEST FRIEND I'VE EVER HAD!



NO! I DID IT BECAUSE I LIKE YOU AND WANT YOU TO HAVE NICE THINGS, BUT I WORRY I STEPPED OVER A CRITICAL BOUNDARY!





~SIGH~ LANDLORD...
HOLD ON A SECOND



CLAK



...JUST ABOUT
THE PARKING
PASS

WHICH IS
AGAINST YOUR
LEASE



SO YOU HAVE THREE OPTIONS:
EITHER RENEW YOUR LEASE AT
THE HIGHER RATE, SHE MOVES OUT
BY THE END OF THE WEEK, OR YOU
BOTH MOVE OUT BY THE END
OF THE MONTH





LATER...

WELL...
HOW DO I
LOOK?

I THOUGHT WE
WERE JUST GOING
TO THE MOVIES,
NOT THE DUKE'S
MASQUERADE

WHAT AM I,
A BAG LADY?
IF I WANNA FEEL
FANCY I'M GONNA
FEEL FANCY,
DAMMIT

SO LONG AS
YOU UNDERSTAND
MY SLOVENLINESS
WILL DRAG US BOTH
DOWN

ALI!

BAAH!

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S MOMMY
AND AUNTIE HILDE'S NIGHT OUT
ON THE TOWN, AND THAT MEANS
YOU CAN'T COME!

BA?

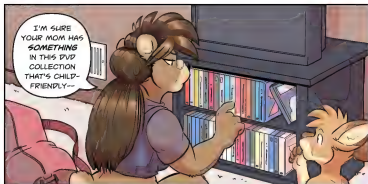
OH YOU'LL BE FINE,
YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF FUN

**KNOK
KNOK**

HEY ELIZA, THANKS FOR
TAKING A LOOK AFTER
ALI TONIGHT

IT'S MY PLEASURE!
BESIDES, I HAD TO
MAKE IT UP TO YOU...







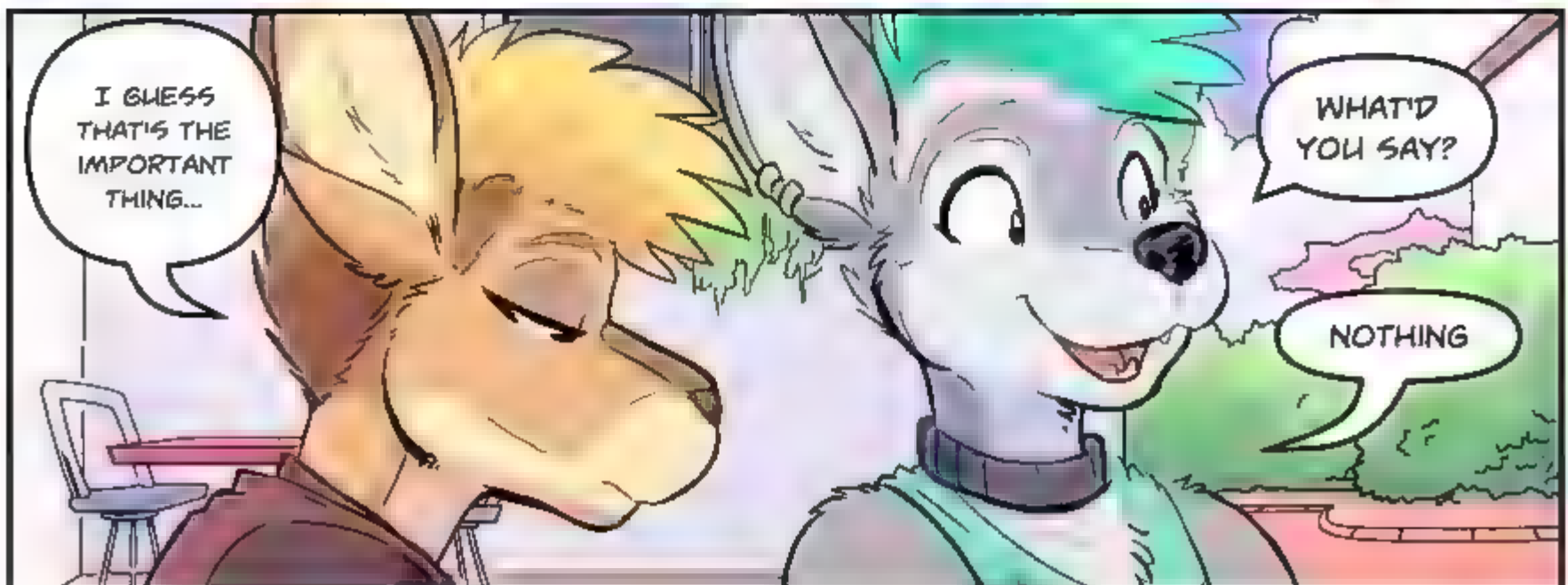
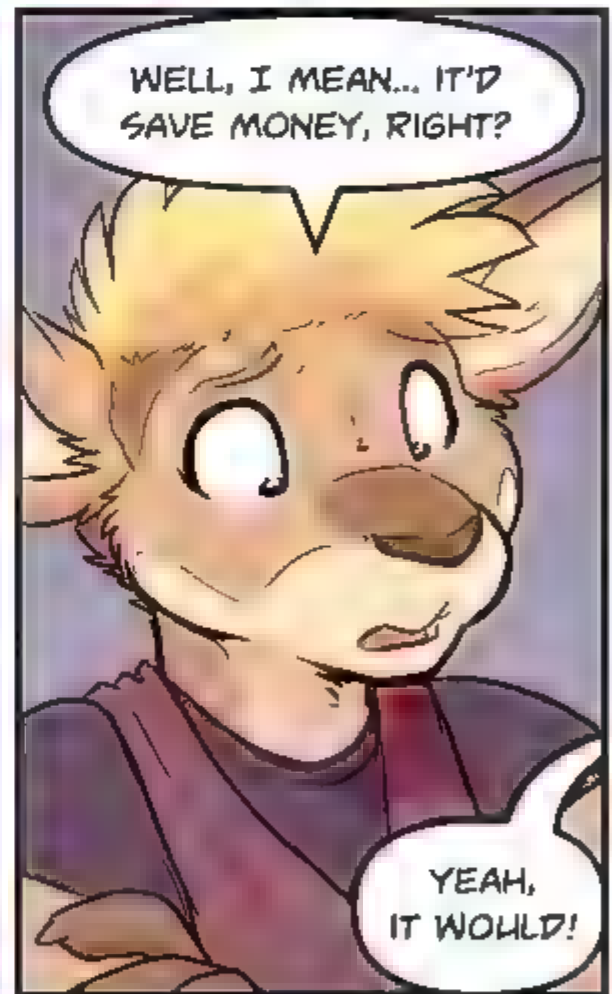
















OKAY SO I'M BABYSITTING FOR MY HUSBAND'S FRIEND AND HER HOUSE HAS THIS... *DISTRACTION*...

The trashiest & lesbian romance

ELIZA, JUST REMOVE YOURSELF FROM THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION

WHAT, AND LEAVE THE KID ALONE?

...THEY LEAVE A CHILD IN AN APARTMENT OF SINFUL MATERIAL?

WELL IT'S NOT MY APARTMENT

IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOU MAY NEED TO BE MORE PROACTIVE ABOUT THIS. I WOULD SUGGEST GATHERING UP *EVERY BIT* OF SINFUL EPHEMERA INTO ONE PLACE AWAY FROM THE CHILD AND *CONFRONTING* THE MOTHER ON HER RETURN. IT WILL GIVE YOU SOMETHING *GOOD AND RIGHTEOUS* TO FOCUS ON

THAT SOUNDS *BELLIGERENT*

DID JESUS NOT WHIP THE MONEYCHANGERS IN HIS FATHER'S TEMPLE? *RIGHTEOUS ANGER* EXPRESSED IN LOVE IS NOT SIN

ER... IF YOU SAY SO







...WHAT?



HILDE... WHY *DO* YOU DATE A LOT OF WOMEN, ANYWAY?

FOR FUN.
WHY ELSE?

LIFE SUCKS SO MUCH,
THERE'S NOT MUCH POINT
TO LETTING YOURSELF BE BOUND
BY THINGS LIKE *MONOGAMY*
IF IT'S JUST GONNA BE MORE
CRAP ON YOUR SHOULDERS,
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?



...DOES IT
BOTHER YOU?

WHAT?

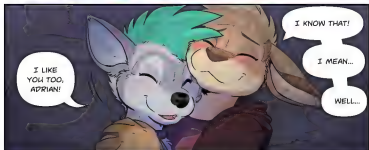
NO, NO NO NO

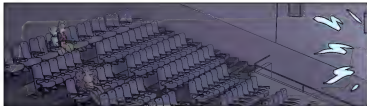
HON, THE WAY YOU LIVE YOUR
LIFE HAS NEVER BOTHERED ME



I ACTUALLY KINDA ADMIRE YOU FOR
JUST BEING SO BOLD AND BARE-FACED.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO CHANGE AT ALL,
ESPECIALLY NOT FOR ME

BUT...?





THE FACT IS, AFTER AN HOUR OR TWO ON THEIR SHIP, I SLEPT WITH INZARI. I'VE HAD THIS MONUMENTAL CRUSH ON HER THAT IS NOT GOING AWAY

WELL... IT'S WEIRD, BUT--

AND THEN I DID IT AGAIN. AND AGAIN. AND AGAIN. HELLS, I HAD SLEPT WITH HER **YESTERDAY**



WHY ARE YOU EVEN TELLING ME THIS?

BECAUSE AFTER WHAT I DID, YOU DESERVE TO KNOW. YOU EVEN **SAID** THIS WASN'T MY FAULT, BUT IT **IS!**

I AM HONEST WHEN I SAY I LOVE YOU, AND I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, BUT WHEN I LOOK BACK ON MY MOTIVATIONS FOR LOVING YOU... I FOOLED MYSELF INTO BELIEVING YOU'RE SOMEONE YOU ARE NOT



I KEPT YOU IN THE DARK BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT COULD MOLD YOU INTO THE PERSON I WANTED

I SHOULD HAVE WANTED YOU FROM THE START

BUT I HAD TO LEARN TO BE HONEST WITH **MYSELF**

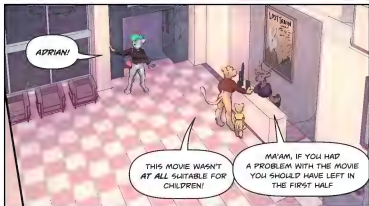
AND IT TURNS OUT... THIS MIGHT NOT BE WHAT I REALLY WANTED



to be continued...



ADRIAN?



ADRIAN!

THIS MOVIE WASN'T
AT ALL SUITABLE FOR
CHILDREN!

MA'AM, IF YOU HAD
A PROBLEM WITH THE MOVIE
YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT IN
THE FIRST HALF





IF THERE'S ONE THING
I NEED FROM A PARTNER,
IT'S STABILITY

BUT YOU TOLD ME
YOUR PRIMARY CONCERN
IS HAVING FUN

AND I'M NOT BLAMING
YOU FOR THAT!

I LOVE HOW YOU
APPROACH RELATIONSHIPS,
BECAUSE I'M LACKING THAT
FUN AND SPONTANEITY

I COULD TOTALLY
SEE MYSELF AS 'ONE OF
YOUR GIRLFRIENDS'

BUT I STILL HAVE
A LOT TO THINK ABOUT
AND WE'RE BOTH GONNA
RUN INTO MORE MONEY
ISSUES SOON

AND HERE I AM LETTING
MY SUGAR MOMMA
BUY ME AN SUV WITH
FUCK SPACE IN
THE BACK

DON'T THINK I DIDN'T NOTICE
WHAT SOLD YOU ON THE CAR

AS MUCH AS I MIGHT CRAVE IT,
I CAN'T *JUST* BE YOUR GIRLTOY

OTHERWISE, WHEN SHIT HITS
THE FAN--AND FROM HOW ANGRY
THE LANDLORD SOUNDED, IT'S GOING
TO BE SOON... HOW DO I FIT INTO
A RELATIONSHIP THAT'S JUST
MEANT TO BE *FOR FUN*?



AND I'M NOT EVEN SAYING YOU'D
ABANDON ME; YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT

YOU'D HELP TO A FAULT--BUT THAT
WILL DEFINITELY PUT STRAIN ON
THINGS BETWEEN US

AND YET, I CAN'T DENY THAT
I NEED HELP

AND AS MUCH AS YOU'VE
ALREADY GIVEN ME, I AM IMPLICITLY
ASKING FOR A LOT MORE FROM THIS
RELATIONSHIP THAN I WORRY YOU'RE
WILLING TO SURRENDER FOR "FUN"



*I REQUIRE
COMMITMENT, HILDE*

AND I'M SORRY I DIDN'T
REALIZE IT SOONER, OR I WOULDN'T
HAVE LED YOU ON, THINKING THIS
WAS JUST ANOTHER FUN TIME



EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG, I'VE
HAD THIS IMAGE IN MY HEAD





THE FACE ALWAYS CHANGED,
OR MAYBE IT WASN'T THERE AT ALL--
STANDING ACROSS FROM ME IN
THE KITCHEN, WEARING AN OVERSIZED
NIGHTSHIRT, THEIR HAIR ALL
MESSED UP

IT'S EARLY MORNING

BIRDS ARE CHIRPING
AND THE WINDOW IS OPEN,
THE AIR SMELLS LIKE A COOL,
WET PINE FOREST, KINDA LIKE
FRESH LAUNDRY

THEY CROSS THE LENGTH,
LEAN DOWN TO KISS ME
AND SAY, "GOOD MORNING,
YOU'RE UP EARLY"



"LET'S HAVE
BREAKFAST
ON THE PATIO"

SCRAMBLED EGGS,
ORANGE JUICE, FRESH TOMATOES,
CHARCUTERIE, FRUIT SALAD
LEFTOVER FROM THE PARTY
LAST WEEKEND

IT'S ALMOST BORING
IN ITS MUNDANITY

BUT BETWEEN SCHOOL DRAMA
AND CITY POLITICS AND CATHOLIC GUILT
AND LOSING FRIENDS AND EVERYTHING
ELSE THAT SEEMS SO PETTY WHEN YOU
COMPARE YOURSELF TO PEOPLE WITH
"REAL PROBLEMS"...

...WELL, MAYBE THAT'S
WHY I'M SO FUN-SEEKING

BUT THE VISION IS
SO RELIABLE. I CAN
TAKE MY MIND OFF
EVERYTHING EXCEPT
THAT MOMENT

LIKE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER,
JUST BEFORE THE WORLD
STARTED TO FEEL SO
COMPLICATED

IT BECAME
COMPLICATED
WHEN I TURNED OUT
TO BE LESBIAN



WHEN YOU'RE ATYPICAL,
THE MOTIVATION TO DO THINGS
"THE NORMAL WAY" GETS MIXED UP
WITH ALL SORTS OF DOUBTS

THE HARDER PEOPLE IN MY LIFE
PUSHED FOR ME TO "FIND A MAN"
TO FILL THAT ROLE, THE MORE
I HAD TO BALK

BUT IN BALKING A NORMAL PATH,
YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES,
LIKE THOSE WHO DON'T BELIEVE IN
"SETTLING DOWN"

AND OTHERS THINK OF LOVE OR
ROMANCE AS INHERENTLY HAVING
AN EXPIRATION DATE, SO *EVEN IF*
THEY GOT INVESTED IN SOMEONE,
THERE'S NO POINT IN SPENDING EFFORT
TO SAVE A FLAGGING RELATIONSHIP

AND FOR THE REST...
IT'S JUST *NEVER CLICKED*, MAKING ME
WONDER IF THEY WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG

HOW DOES SOMEONE *GET* FROM
HERE TO THERE WHEN EVERYONE
BELIEVES YOU HAVE TO CHANGE TO FIT
ONE OF THE MOLD'S PREDETERMINED
FOR YOU?

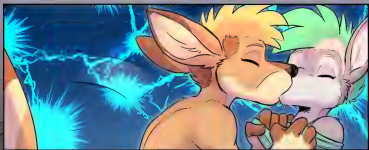
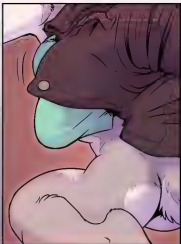
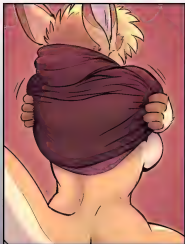
SO THE VISION REMAINS,
LIKE SO MANY OTHER DESIRES,
JUST A FANTASY

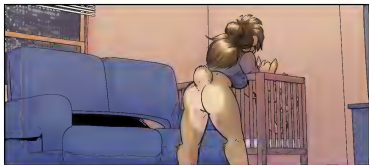
AND FOR THE LAST
TWO WEEKS I'VE KEPT
PICTURING YOU IN IT

DOES THAT
MAKE SENSE?

...ADRIAN?









MY POINT IS,
THERE'S ALL SORTS
OF *LASCIVIOUS*
MATERIAL LURKING
AROUND EVERY
CORNER OF THIS
APARTMENT!

IF YOU REALLY CARED
ABOUT THE KIND OF ENVIRONMENT
ALI IS GROWING UP IN, YOU'D RECOGNIZE
THAT THIS IS NOT THE KIND OF EXAMPLE
TO SET, AND YOU'D LET ME TAKE
THESE OUT OF YOUR APARTMENT
RIGHT AWAY!



YOU CAN JUST *ASK*
TO BORROW THEM

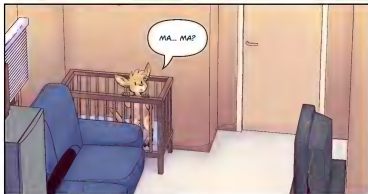
CAN I PLEASE
BORROW THEM



DON'T GET
THEM DIRTY!

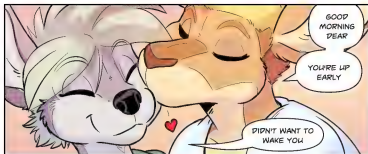
OH HUSH!













BUT I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT MY EXPENSES LATELY AND YOU KNOW... I HAVE A LOT OF EXPENSIVE HABITS I CAN CUT BACK ON...



WE DON'T HAVE TO STAY IN *THIS* APARTMENT

I KNOW, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO MOVE TO SOMEPLACE NICER FOR A WHILE, BUT THERE'S NO DECENT OPENINGS



BESIDES, I THINK WE MAY WANT TO FEEL EACH OTHER OUT FOR AT LEAST A FEW MONTHS BEFORE WE MAKE THAT KIND OF COMMITMENT

IT'S ALREADY A PRETTY BIG COMMITMENT!



AND WE ALREADY FELT EACH OTHER A LOT

DEAR, YOU'LL TAINT THE CHILD'S EARS

BA?



NO, I UNDERSTAND. I JUST...
REALLY THINK WE *CAN*
MAKE THIS WORK



EVEN IF I HAVE TO TRUST THAT YOU'LL
ALWAYS COME BACK WHEN YOU SEE
YOUR OTHER GIRLFRIENDS ON THE SIDE

ADRIAN,
I MEANT WHAT
I SAID

THINGS ARE
GONNA BE
DIFFERENT



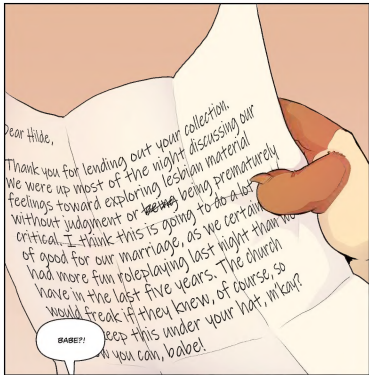
BUT... IF YOU *DO* TRUST ME...
MAYBE THERE'D BE NO ISSUE WITH TAKING UP
JANICE ON HER OFFER?



YOU'D *REALLY* LIKE TO
SEE JANICE, WOULDN'T YOU?



HEY LOOK
SOMEONE LEFT
A NOTE UNDER
THE DOOR!



Dear Hilde,

Thank you for lending out your collection. We were up most of the night discussing our feelings toward exploring lesbian material without judgment or ~~being~~ being prematurely critical. I think this is going to do a lot of good for our marriage, as we certainly had more fun roleplaying last night than we have in the last five years. The church would freak if they knew, of course, so keep this under your hat, m'kay?

As you can, babe!

BABE?!



"...SINCERELY,
HENRY JONES"

OH, WELL, NOW
IT MAKES SENSE

